

# THE JOURNAL.

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## GALLIPOLIS.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1890.

FOR GOVERNOR.  
**WILLIAM JOHNSTON.**  
of Hamilton county.

FOR BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS,  
**ALEXANDER G. CONOVER,**  
of Auglaize county.

### Death of General Taylor.

The report was current here, on Tuesday evening, of the demise of Gen. TAYLOR, President of the United States. We attempted to ascertain the truth in regard to the matter, but could not learn that it had any foundation in fact—it was not even stated that he was sick—in consequence of which the report was discredited entirely.

On Wednesday morning, however, the sad intelligence reached us in a manner perfectly reliable. He died at 35 minutes past 10 o'clock, on Tuesday evening. The particulars, so far as the telegraph could furnish them, will be found under the proper head.

This intelligence will cast a gloom over the country, such as it has not felt since the death of Gen. Harrison. But we have no time or room to put on paper the thoughts suggested by this mournful event. We defer them until next week.

Gen. Taylor will be succeeded, in the Presidential office, by Vice President FILLMORE, a man eminently qualified, in every sense, to discharge the duties of the office with honor to himself and credit to the country.

### The Iowa Contest.

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 95 to 95, have decided against giving the seat, now occupied by Thompson, Loco, to D. F. Miller, Whig. Our readers will recollect that Mr. Miller was elected by the Mormon vote—that the poll-book was missing, and thus Thompson, Loco, was returned. This poll-book, after being concealed by this man Thompson and his lawyers, more than a year, was at last discovered on them by accident. Miller claimed his right to his seat, and on motion to declare Miller duly elected, the vote stood 95 yeas to 94 nays; the Speaker voted in the negative, making a tie and defeating the motion.

There were twenty-one Whigs absent, and eighteen Locos. Among the Whigs absent we notice the name of Mr. Vinton. Of course we know not the cause of the absence of any, but this much we do know, that there has not been a vote taken during this session, where we more gladly should have seen the name of our representative recorded, than among the yeas on this motion; for by no vote has justice and decency been so outraged.

P. S. A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune says Mr. Vinton was absent on account of sickness.

### Abolitionism vs. Hon. S. F. Vinton.

We publish this week the proceedings of the Abolition convention, held at Wilksville. We most willingly comply with the request to publish; for, as we ask nothing but equal and exact justice to all, we are sure nothing we could say would go so far in showing the real character, the villainy and depravity of this Abolition party, as these proceedings. Such falsehoods and abuse put forth in such language, well earns for its originators the name of blackguard and bully. The whole affair, convention, proceedings and nomination is too contemptible to excite any other feelings than those of disgust.

We call attention to the remarks of the Meigs Co. Telegraph in connection with this subject.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.—We learn by a private dispatch from Columbus that this body adjourned on Monday till December. We suppose it is owing to the prevalence of the cholera. Had members been less disposed to talk and more to act, the object of the Convention might have been accomplished ere this. But as it is, the people will not get a chance to express their opinion thereon till another spring.

### Constitutional Convention.

The judiciary report has been under discussion for the last week. There is much opposition to certain portions of the report, but the majority seem inclined to adopt the plan proposed by the committee. Quite a lengthy debate sprang up on the question of length of time the Judges should hold their office. The time was finally fixed at five years. We think the term should at least have been seven.

### Locofoco State Convention.

The Locofocos assembled in Columbus on the 4th inst., to nominate a candidate for the Board of Public Works. A. P. Miller, of Butler county, received the nomination.

These resolutions go the hard money doctrine thoroughly. They resolved that it was the duty of the constitutional convention, so to frame that instrument that hereafter no bank of issue, &c., could ever be chartered under it.

This is to the point, and there can be no misunderstanding it. We shall see its effects upon these members of the Convention, whom it was intended to reach.

### Cholera.

The Cincinnati Inquirer of Saturday has the following in regard to cholera in that city:

THE BOARD OF HEALTH met yesterday afternoon and reported ninety-three deaths during the last 24 hours—sixty-five of which were from cholera.

From the manner in which the information of the Board is obtained, we place no confidence in this report. During yesterday the Clerk issued only 38 permits, 18 of which were cholera deaths. Of this number 16 were for interment in the graveyards especially used by our foreign population.

At St. Louis, during the week ending July 1st., there were 196 deaths, of which 67 were cholera.—This is an increase over the previous week.

At Nashville, on the 1st inst., there were four interments, three of which were Cholera. The Nashville Banner and Whig of Tuesday last, says:

We regret to learn that the Cholera is rather on the increase in this vicinity. On Sunday there were some sixty cases of the Cholera or diarrhoea at the Penitentiary and one death, the deceased, a man named Dillingham, (put in for attempting to run off with negroes,) having been attacked about breakfast time, and was buried at half past 3 P. M.—The malignity of the disease appears without precedent.

Late accounts from the Plains say that the cholera has broken out among the California emigrants, and was making terrible ravages.

At Mayville there has been several cases of cholera morbus, and one death from cholera—that of a black man who acted imprudently.

There has been a few cases on and along the river for the last week or two. There have been several deaths at the Kanawha salines.—There has been no case in Gallipolis. There was a case something resembling cholera a mile below town last Sunday night. It was the case of a black woman who had been very imprudent.

Gallipolis was never more healthy than at present.

### Dr. Fitch's Lectures.

We have before us a work containing six lectures on "the use of the lungs, and causes, prevention and cure of consumption, &c., with illustrations, by S. S. Fitch, M. D." The Doctor has attained to some notoriety for a successful management of the diseases of the lungs and heart.—The book contains a great many valuable suggestions in regard to the subjects treated of. The book can be had at Fleming & Co's.

### Judge Welch.

We understand that Hon. Arius Nye, of Marietta, has resigned the President Judgeship of the 8th circuit, and that Hon. John Welch, of Athens, has been appointed as his successor. An excellent appointment.

### Boston, July 6.

The wife and three daughters of Professor Webster appeared before the Council yesterday, and pleaded in aid of the petition of the husband and father for a commutation of punishment. Mrs. Webster said she had been unwavering in the belief of her husband's innocence until he had made his confession; she also stated that it was chiefly through her means and representations that the petition for pardon and protestation of his innocence was sent in after their withdrawal. The Council sent for Dr. Putnam, and stated that they having great doubts on certain points in the confession, had consulted separately three eminent surgeons, and a document had been prepared for him to present to Professor Webster, but before the document was read the doors were closed; but it was understood that one of the question propounded was whether such a stick as that described in the confession would give such a blow as would cause death in ten minutes, and all three considered it would not; and the other questions were answered adverse to the confession. The opinion is universally expressed that no commutation will be granted.

### From the Meigs Co. Telegraph.

Free Soilers.—Mr. Vinton.

We publish to-day, the proceedings of the Free Soil convention at Wilksville. We do so with feelings of regret and disappointment. The language made use of in regard to Mr. Vinton, is disgraceful and degrading to any respectable body of men. No one whose feelings are not entirely blunted by a fanatical zeal, could so far forget what is due to the amenities of life—to gentlemen from gentlemen—to citizen from citizen—to representative from constituent—as to descend to such a depth of contemptible ribaldry and vituperative slang. Mr. Vinton has represented this congressional district for a quarter of a century in the national councils—and we hazard nothing in saying—that no public man of the age has acquired a more enviable reputation, for integrity, ability, and an undeviating consistency of action. No man in Congress has a greater or more deserved influence than Mr. Vinton. Long before these men who now denounce him, had ever thought of this slavery question, Mr. Vinton was doing service to the cause of freedom. His amendment to Calhoun's scheme for colonizing the Indian tribes, by which they were located South instead of North of the Missouri compromise line, thus erecting the free States of Wisconsin, Iowa, and in time Minnesota and others, and restricting the formation of slave States over what is now the Creek, Cherokee, and other Indian country, was a more substantial service to freedom, than the combined hosts of Free Soilers have accomplished since their advent into the political world. The defeat of Walker's amendment last Congress, which was done almost solely under the lead of Mr. Vinton, (and so acknowledged by the National Era) was a service of more importance to the country and to mankind, than the passage of all the Root resolutions that can be framed between now and the extinction of slavery on this continent.—Yet these men are found maligning, ridiculing and caricaturing Mr. Vinton, and then, as if to proclaim with more distinct emphasis, the harlequin character of their proceedings, propose to fill his place in the councils of the nation with the candidate named. Was ever such a farce perpetrated in open day in this district before!

We know what we say, when we affirm, that there cannot be found ten Free Soilers, in this county, who approve of that resolution. We know more, that there are not twenty-five in this county, but who tomorrow would vote for Mr. Vinton, in preference to their own nominee. Now as to the charge—we have the authority of Horace Mann, of Massachusetts, who voted for Root's resolution—that it was ill-timed, and so considered by the best anti-slavery men in Congress—a fire-brand, intended for mischief and mischief only. So much so was it considered, that even David Wilmot, the great father of the Proviso, sat in his seat while the vote was taken—and although twice called refused to vote—so indignant was he at the course of Mr. Root. What more is wanted to show up this matter in its true light.

More than this; as originally offered, Mr. Root's resolution instructed the committee to bring in a bill to establish a territorial government for California—when it was known that she had formed a State constitution prohibiting slavery, which in ten days was verified by the appearance of her Senators and Representatives at the Capital. Yet Mr. Vinton is denounced for voting to lay such a proposition on the table. Verily, men's stomachs are becoming very dyspeptic.

We have pursued this subject far enough. We feel it to be almost a work of supererogation to say anything in vindication of Mr. Vinton, in this district—but lest some might be led astray, we have thought proper to give facts. If the tastes of certain ambitious men can only be gratified by a descent to such venality as exhibited by the resolution in question, let them take their course. But they must recollect one thing, that political falsehood, sometimes attaches to the moral reputation, and the man who wilfully or deliberately utters a slander upon the political character of a neighbor, would do so against his moral reputation, were it not for remedies which exist under the common counts.

The Lake Superior Journal says the arrangements to remove the Chippewa Indians from Lake Superior are producing much dissatisfaction among the Indians and the whites. The Indians are loth to move, and the whites to let them go. The policy of removing them is condemned. Many of them are partly civilized, and we cannot find a country better fitted and more out of the way for the Chippewas.

NEW CENSUS OF MASSACHUSETTS. The returns of the Assessors in Massachusetts, so far as they have been published and compared with the population of 1840, show a very marked increase in nearly every town. The common range is above 50 per cent. for the ten years, while in some towns the increase runs up to 100 per cent, 150 per cent, 200 and 211.

## CONFESSION OF PROF. WEBSTER.

OF THE

KILLING OF DR. PARKMAN!!!

Boston, Tuesday, July 2.

At a meeting of the Council this morning, the case of Professor Webster was referred to a committee.

Before the committee, at 12 o'clock, appeared, Rev. Dr. Putnam, the spiritual adviser of the condemned, with a petition for a commutation of punishment, together with a confession that he killed Dr. Parkman.

The Rev. gentleman prefaced the statement by a few remarks relative to the manner in which the confession was made to him. He stated that he had no personal acquaintance with Professor Webster before being called to act in the capacity of his spiritual adviser. In the first few weeks of his visit he sought no acknowledgment of the prisoner. At length on the 23d of May, he visited him in his cell and demanded of him, for his own well-being, that he should tell the truth in regard to the matter, and he acceded to the request by making a statement which was now submitted for the consideration of the Council. It was as follows:

I sent the note to Dr. Parkman, which appears as carried by the boy Maxwell. I handed it to Littlefield unsealed. It was to ask Dr. Parkman to call at my rooms on Friday, the 23d, after my lecture. He had become of late very importunate for his pay. He had threatened me with a suit, to put an officer into my house, and to drive me from my professorship, if I did not pay him. The purpose of my note was simply to ask the conference. I did not tell him in what I could do or what I had to say about the payment. I wished to gain for those few days a release from his solicitations, to which I was liable every day, on occasions and in a manner very disagreeable, and also to avert for so long a time at least the fulfillment of recent threats of severe measures. I did not expect to be able to pay him when Friday should arrive. My purpose was, if he should accede to the proposed interview, to state to him my embarrassments, and utter inability to pay him at present, to apologize for those things in my conduct which had offended him, to throw myself upon his mercy, and to beg for further time and indulgence for the sake of my family, if not for my own, and to make as good promises to him as I could have any hope of keeping. I did not hear from him on that day, nor the next, (Wednesday,) but I found on Thursday he had been abroad in pursuit of me, without finding me. I imagined he had forgotten the appointment, or else did not mean to wait for it. I feared he would come in upon me at my lecture-room, or while I was preparing my experiments for it—therefore I called at his house on that morning, (Friday,) between 8 and 9 o'clock, to remind him of my wish to see him at the college at 11 o'clock—my lecture closing at 1 o'clock. I did not stop to talk with him, for I expected the conversation would be a long one, and I had my lecture to prepare, for it was necessary for me to have my time, and also to keep my mind free from other exciting matters.

Dr. Parkman agreed to call on me as I proposed. He came accordingly between 11 and 12 o'clock, entering at the lecture room door. I was engaged in removing some glasses from my lecture room table into the room in the rear, called the upper laboratory; he came rapidly down the step and followed me into the laboratory; he immediately addressed me with great energy, "Are you ready for me, sir—have you got the money?" I replied, "No, Dr. Parkman," and was then beginning to state my condition and my appeal to him, but he would not listen to me, and interrupted me with much vehemence; he called me a scoundrel and liar, and went on heaping on me the most bitter taunts and opprobrious epithets; while he was speaking he drew a handful of papers from his pocket and took from among them my two notes, and also an old letter from Dr. Hosack, written many years ago, and congratulating him on his success in getting me appointed Professor of Chemistry. "You see," he said, "I got you into your office, and now I will get you out of it." He put back into his pocket all the papers except the letter and the notes; I cannot tell how long the torrents of threats and invectives continued, and I cannot recall to memory but a small portion of what he said.

At first I kept interposing, trying to pacify him, so that I might obtain the object for which I sought the interview, but I could not stop him, and soon my own temper was up; I forgot everything, and felt nothing but the sting of his words. I was excited to the highest degree of passion, and while he was speaking and gesticulating in the most violent and menacing manner, thrusting the letter and his fist into my face, in my fury I seized whatever thing was handy, (it was a stick of wood,) and dealt him an instantaneous blow with all the force that passion could give it. I did not know, or think, or care where I should hit him, nor how hard, nor what the effect would be; it was on the side of the head, and there was nothing to break the force of the blow; he fell instantly upon the pavement; there was no second blow; he did not move; I stopped down over him, and he seemed to be lifeless; blood flowed from his mouth, and I got a sponge and wiped it away; I got some ammonia and applied it to his nose, but without effect; perhaps I spent ten minutes in attempts to resuscitate him, but I found he was absolutely dead; in my horror and confusion I ran instinctively to the doors and bolted them—the doors of the lecture-room and of the laboratory below; and then what was I to do? I never occurred to me to go out and declare what had been done, and obtain assistance; I saw nothing but the alternative of a successful movement and concealment of the body on the one hand, and of infamy and destruction on the other. The first thing I did, as soon as I could

do anything, was to draw the body into the private room adjoining, where I took off the clothes and began putting them into the fire, which was burning in the upper laboratory; they were all consumed there that afternoon, with papers, pocket-book and whatever they contained. I did not examine the pockets, nor remove anything except the watch. I saw that, or the chain of it, hanging up, I took it and threw it over the bridge as I went to Cambridge. My next move was to get the body into the sink which stands in the small private room, by setting the body partially erect against the corner, and by getting up into the sink myself, I succeeded in drawing it up there; it was entirely dismembered; it was quickly done, as a work of terrible and desperate necessity. The only instrument was the knife found by the officers in the tea chest, which I kept for cutting cords. I made no use of the Turkish knife, as it was called at the trial; that had long been kept on my parlor mantel-piece in Cambridge, as a curious ornament. My daughters frequently cleaned it, hence the marks of oil and polishing found on it. I had lately brought it into Boston to get the silver sheath repaired.

While dismembering the body a stream of Cochituate water was running through the sink carrying off the blood in a pipe that passed down through the lower laboratory. There must have been a leak in the pipe, for the ceiling below was stained immediately around it.

There was a fire burning in the furnace of the lower laboratory; Littlefield was mistaken in thinking there had never been a fire there; he had probably never kindled one, but I had done it that day for the purpose of making oxygen gas; the head and viscera were put into that furnace that day, and fuel heaped on; did not examine at night to see to what degree they were consumed; some of the extremities were put in there, I believe, on that day. The pelvis and some of the limbs, perhaps, were all put under the lecture-room table, in what is called the well, a deep sink lined with lead; a stream of Cochituate was turned into it, and kept running through it all Friday night; the thorax was put into a similar well in the lower laboratory, which I filled with water, and threw in a quantity of potash which I found there. This disposition of the remains was not changed till after the visit of the officers on Monday. When the body had been thus all disposed of, I cleared away all traces of what had been done.

I think the stick with which the fatal blow had been struck proved to be a piece of the stump of a large grape vine—say two inches in diameter and two feet long. It was one of several pieces which I had carried in from Cambridge long before for the purpose of showing the effect of certain chemical fluids in coloring wood, by being absorbed into the pores—the grape vine being a very porous wood was well adapted to this purpose. Another longer stick had been used as intended and exhibited to the students; this one had not been used—I put it into the fire.

I took up the two notes either from the table or the floor, I think the table, close by where Dr. P. had fallen; I seized an old metallic pen lying on the table, dashed it across the face and through the signatures, and put them in my pocket; I do not know why I did this rather than put them in the fire, for I had not considered for a moment what effect either mode of disposing of them would have on the mortgage, or my indebtedness to Dr. P. and the other persons interested, and I had not yet given a single thought to the question as to what account I should give of the objects or result of my interview with Dr. Parkman; I never saw the sledge-hammer spoken of by Littlefield—never knew of its existence—at least I have no recollection of it; I left the College to go home as late as six o'clock; I collected myself as well as I could, that I might meet my family and others with composure. On Saturday I visited my rooms at the College, but laid no plans as to my future course; on Saturday evening read the notice in the Transcript respecting the disappearance; I was then deeply impressed with the necessity of immediately taking some ground as to the character of my interview with Parkman, for I saw that it must become known that I had had such an interview, as I had appointed it first by an unsealed note on Tuesday, and on Friday I had myself called at his house in open day and ratified the arrangement, and had there been seen, and had probably been overheard by the man-servant, and I knew not by how many persons Dr. P. might have been seen entering my room, or how many persons he might have told by the way where he was going; the interview would in all probability be known, and I must be ready to explain it. The question exercised me much, but on Sunday my course was taken. I would go into Boston and be the first to declare myself the person as yet unknown with whom Dr. P. had made the appointment; I would take the ground that I had invited him to the College to pay him money, and that I had paid it accordingly. I fixed upon the sum by taking the small note and adding interest, which, it appears, I cast erroneously.

If I had thought of this course earlier, I should not have deposited Pettee's check for \$90 on the Charles River Bank on Saturday, but should have suppressed it as going so far to make up the sum which I was to have professed to have paid the day before, and which Pettee knew I had by me at the hour of interview. I had not occurred to me that I should ever show the notes cancelled in proof of it, or I should have destroyed the large note and let it be inferred that it was gone with the missing man, and I should only have kept the small one, which was all that I could pretend to have paid. My single thought was a concealment and safety—everything else was incidental to that. I was in no state to consider my ulterior pecuniary interest—money; though I needed it so much, it was of no account to me in that condition of mind. If I had designed and premeditated the homicide of Dr. Parkman in order to get possession of the notes, and cancel my debt, I not only should not have deposited Pettee's check the next day, but I should have made some show of getting and having the money the morning before. I should have drawn my money from the bank and taken occasion to mention to the Cashier, that I had a sum to make up on that day for Dr. P., and the same to Henchman, when I borrowed the \$10. I should have remarked that I was so much short of a large sum that I was to pay Parkman. I borrowed the sum of Henchman as mere pocket money for the day. If I had intended the homicide of Dr. P. I should not have made the appointment with him twice, and each time in so open a manner that other persons would almost certainly know of it, and should not have invited him to my rooms at an hour when the College would be full of students and others, and an hour when I was most likely to receive calls from others; for that was the hour just after the lecture, at which persons having business with me or in my rooms, were always directed to call. I looked into my rooms on Sunday afternoon, but did nothing. After the first visit of the officers I took the pelvis and some of the limbs from the upper well and threw them into the vault under the privy. I took the thorax from the well below and packed it in the tea chest as found. My own impression has been that this was not done till after the second visit of the officers, which was on Tuesday; but King'sley's testimony shows that it must have been done sooner. The perforation of the thorax had been made by the knife at the time of removing the viscera. On Wednesday I put on kindlings and made a fire in the furnace below, having first poked down the ashes. Some of the limbs—I cannot remember which or how many—were consumed at that time. This is the last I had to do with the remains. The tin box was designed to receive the thorax, though I had not concluded where I should finally put the box. The fish hooks, tied up as grapples, were to be used for drawing up the parts in the vault whenever I should determine how to dispose of them and get strings enough. I had a confused double object in ordering the box and making the grapples. I had before intended to get such things to send to Fayal—the box to hold the plants and other articles which I wished to protect from the salt water and the sea air, and the hooks to be used there in obtaining Coralline plants from the sea. It was this previous intended use of them that suggested and mixed itself up with the idea of the other application. I doubt even now to which use they would have been applied; I had not used the hooks at the time of the discovery.

The tan put into the tea-chest was taken from a barrel of it that had been in the laboratory for some time; the bag of tan brought in on Monday, was not used, nor intended to be used; it belonged to a quantity obtained by me a long time ago for experiments in tanning, and was sent in by the family to get it out of the way. Its being sent in just at that time was accidental. I was not aware that I had put the knife in the chest; the stick found in the saucer of ink was for marking coarse diagrams on cloth; the bunch of filed keys had been used long ago by me in front street and thrown carelessly into a drawer; I never examined them, and do not know whether they would fit any of the locks of the College or not; if there were other keys fitting doors with which I had nothing to do, I suppose they must have been all duplicates, or keys of former locks, left there by the mechanics or janitor; I know nothing about them, and should never be likely to notice them among the multitude of articles, large and small, of all kinds, collected in my rooms; the janitor had furnished me with a key to the dissecting room, for the admission of medical friends visiting the College, but I had never used it. The nitric acid on the stairs was not used to remove spots of blood, but was dropped by accident. When the officers called for me on Friday, the 30th, I was in doubt whether I was under arrest or whether a more strict search of my rooms was to be had, the latter hypothesis being hardly less appalling than the former.

When I found that we went over Craigie's Bridge, I thought the arrest most probable; when I found the carriage was stopping at the jail, I was sure of my fate. Before leaving the carriage, I took a dose of strychnine from my pocket and swallowed it.—I prepared it in the shape of a pill before I left my laboratory on the 23d. I thought I could not bear to survive detection. I thought it was a large dose. The state of my nervous system probably defeated its action partially. The effects of the poison were terrible beyond description. It was in operation at the College and before I went there, but most severely afterward. I wrote but one of the anonymous letters produced at the trial—the one mailed at East Cambridge. The little bundle referred to in the letter detained by the jailor, contained only a bottle of nitric acid for domestic use. I had seen it stated in a newspaper, that I had purchased a quantity of oxalic acid, which it was presumed was to be used in removing blood-stains. I wish the parcel to be kept untouched that it may be shown, if there should be occasion, what it really was that I had purchased. I have drawn up in separate papers an explanation of the use I intended to make of the blood sent for on Thursday, the 22d, and of the conversation with Littlefield about the dissecting vault. I think that Pettee, in his testimony at the trial, put too strongly my words about having settled with Dr. P. Whatever I did say of the kind was in the hope that I should be able to pacify Dr. P., and make some arrangement with him, and was said in order to quiet Pettee, who was becoming restive under the solicitation of Dr. Parkman.

After Dr. W. had stated most of the facts above recorded on the 23d of May, this question, with all the earnestness, solemnity and authority of tone that Dr. Putnam was master of, was addressed to him: Dr. Webster, in all probability your days are numbered; you cannot, you dare not speak falsely to me now; you must not die with a lie in your mouth—so prove to yourself that your repentance for the sins of your past life is sincere; tell me the truth then—a confidence to be kept secret during your lifetime and as much longer as your regard for the happiness of your family shall seem to me to require, and the interest of truth and justice to permit. Search to the bottom of your heart for the history of your motives, and tell me, before God, did it never occur to you, before the decease of Dr. Parkman, that his death, if you could bring it to pass, would be of great advantage to you, or at least that personal injury to him might possibly be the result of your expected conference with him? As a dying man I charge you to answer me truly and exactly, or else be silent. Had you not such a thought?" "No, never," said he, with an energy and feeling, "as I live, and as God is my witness, never! I was no more capable of such a thought than one of my innocent children; I never had the remotest idea of injuring Dr. P. until the moment the blow was struck. Dr. P. was extremely severe and sharp, the most provoking of men, and I am irritable and passionate. A quick-tempered and brief violence of temper has been a besetting sin of my life. I was an only child, much indulged, and I have never acquired the control over my passions that I ought to have acquired early, and the consequence is all this."

"But you notified Dr. Parkman to meet you at a certain hour, and told him you would pay him, when you knew you had not the means?" "No," he replied, "I did not tell him I would pay him; and there is no evidence I told him so, except my own words spoken after his disappearance and after I had determined to take the ground that I had paid him; those words were of the miserable tissue of falsehood to which I was committed from the moment I had begun to conceal the homicide. I never had a thought of injuring Dr. Parkman."

This was accompanied by the statement in which Prof. Webster attempts to explain as to his seeing Littlefield, sending for blood, and of inquiring about gasses from the vault. After reading the statement, Dr. Putnam proceeded to argue as to its truthfulness, saying that it was made when the writ of error was pending—also, that Prof. Webster's estate was worth several thousand dollars, and that he was not in such a strait as to commit such a crime deliberately.

The previous petition from Prof. Webster, protesting his innocence and praying for absolute pardon, he said was got up by his family, who were wavering in their belief in his innocence until his confession was communicated to them about a week since.

He concluded in asserting his belief that the confession was true. Members of the council have retained a copy of the petition previously presented, and withdrawn by the advice of Dr. Putnam, which will probably be published. It asserts his innocence, and it also asserts that Littlefield, or some other person placed the remains in his rooms to compass his ruin.

When I found that we went over Craigie's Bridge, I thought the arrest most probable; when I found the carriage was stopping at the jail, I was sure of my fate. Before leaving the carriage, I took a dose of strychnine from my pocket and swallowed it.—I prepared it in the shape of a pill before I left my laboratory on the 23d. I thought I could not bear to survive detection. I thought it was a large dose. The state of my nervous system probably defeated its action partially. The effects of the poison were terrible beyond description. It was in operation at the College and before I went there, but most severely afterward. I wrote but one of the anonymous letters produced at the trial—the one mailed at East Cambridge. The little bundle referred to in the letter detained by the jailor, contained only a bottle of nitric acid for domestic use. I had seen it stated in a newspaper, that I had purchased a quantity of oxalic acid, which it was presumed was to be used in removing blood-stains. I wish the parcel to be kept untouched that it may be shown, if there should be occasion, what it really was that I had purchased. I have drawn up in separate papers an explanation of the use I intended to make of the blood sent for on Thursday, the 22d, and of the conversation with Littlefield about the dissecting vault. I think that Pettee, in his testimony at the trial, put too strongly my words about having settled with Dr. P. Whatever I did say of the kind was in the hope that I should be able to pacify Dr. P., and make some arrangement with him, and was said in order to quiet Pettee, who was becoming restive under the solicitation of Dr. Parkman.

After Dr. W. had stated most of the facts above recorded on the 23d of May, this question, with all the earnestness, solemnity and authority of tone that Dr. Putnam was master of, was addressed to him: Dr. Webster, in all probability your days are numbered; you cannot, you dare not speak falsely to me now; you must not die with a lie in your mouth—so prove to yourself that your repentance for the sins of your past life is sincere; tell me the truth then—a confidence to be kept secret during your lifetime and as much longer as your regard for the happiness of your family shall seem to me to require, and the interest of truth and justice to permit. Search to the bottom of your heart for the history of your motives, and tell me, before God, did it never occur to you, before the decease of Dr. Parkman, that his death, if you could bring it to pass, would be of great advantage to you, or at least that personal injury to him might possibly be the result of your expected conference with him? As a dying man I charge you to answer me truly and exactly, or else be silent. Had you not such a thought?" "No, never," said he, with an energy and feeling, "as I live, and as God is my witness, never! I was no more capable of such a thought than one of my innocent children; I never had the remotest idea of injuring Dr. P. until the moment the blow was struck. Dr. P. was extremely severe and sharp, the most provoking of men, and I am irritable and passionate. A quick-tempered and brief violence of temper has been a besetting sin of my life. I was an only child, much indulged, and I have never acquired the control over my passions that I ought to have acquired early, and the consequence is all this."

"But you notified Dr. Parkman to meet you at a certain hour, and told him you would pay him, when you knew you had not the means?" "No," he replied, "I did not tell him I would pay him; and there is no evidence I told him so, except my own words spoken after his disappearance and after I had determined to take the ground that I had paid him; those words were of the miserable tissue of falsehood to which I was committed from the moment I had begun to conceal the homicide. I never had a thought of injuring Dr. Parkman."

This was accompanied by the statement in which Prof. Webster attempts to explain as to his seeing Littlefield, sending for blood, and of inquiring about gasses from the vault. After reading the statement, Dr. Putnam proceeded to argue as to its truthfulness, saying that it was made when the writ of error was pending—also, that Prof. Webster's estate was worth several thousand dollars, and that he was not in such a strait as to commit such a crime deliberately.

The previous petition from Prof. Webster, protesting his innocence and praying for absolute pardon, he said was got up by his family, who were wavering in their belief in his innocence until his confession was communicated to them about a week since.

He concluded in asserting his belief that the confession was true. Members of the council have retained a copy of the petition previously presented, and withdrawn by the advice of Dr. Putnam, which will probably be published. It asserts his innocence, and it also asserts that Littlefield, or some other person placed the remains in his rooms to compass his ruin.